Semi-Transparency in a Size-Constrained User Interface

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides a method that increases screen space of a
5   computing device by using semi-transparent functional areas that overlap non-functional
content areas on the screen. This method allows for relatively large functional targets on
the screen – thus mitigating the usability problems associated with tiny buttons and other
images – while also allowing the underlying content on the screen to be clearly visible.
A main design feature of this invention is that two functional areas are never allowed to
10   overlap. An overlap condition would cause user confusion as to which layer is active.
Instead, the interface is designed to foreground functionality in all instances.

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